

**Remarks**

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested prior to examination of the application.

Applicant notes that the claims have been amended strictly to ensure closer compliance with U.S. patent practice and not for a reason related to patentability or for a reason related to distinguishing the invention over any known prior art reference. Accordingly, Applicant submits that no estoppel should apply to any feature recited in any of the so amended claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary for the consideration of this preliminary amendment to deposit account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sylvain CLOAREC et al.

Neil F. Greenblum  
Reg. No. 28,394

March 17, 2004  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191

